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PREFACE.

It is now seventy years since the first appearance of the *ENCYCLOPÆDIA BRITANNICA*. During that period it has exhibited great and various mutations. Consisting at first of three quarto volumes of moderate size, it now appears in twenty-one; each in quantity of matter equaling more than two of the original prototype. Its internal changes have been still more signal. Though its plan was always judicious, in as far as regarded the treatment of the Sciences, it was in other respects extremely circumscribed. But, as it advanced, the whole circle of human knowledge came to be included within its wide embrace. Showing, in its earlier stages, no literary skill above the level of decent abridgement or compilation, it is now composed of treatises which in no respect yield to the other original and finished productions of the age. The workmanship, at first, of a few comparatively undistinguished literary denizens of its native place; its list of contributors now includes a large portion of that learned host by whom the mental sovereignty of Britain is upheld. Thus, from being viewed as only a convenient digest of information suited, chiefly, to the wants of the unlearned; it must now be considered as one of the most dignified and efficient expedients for the diffusion of matured

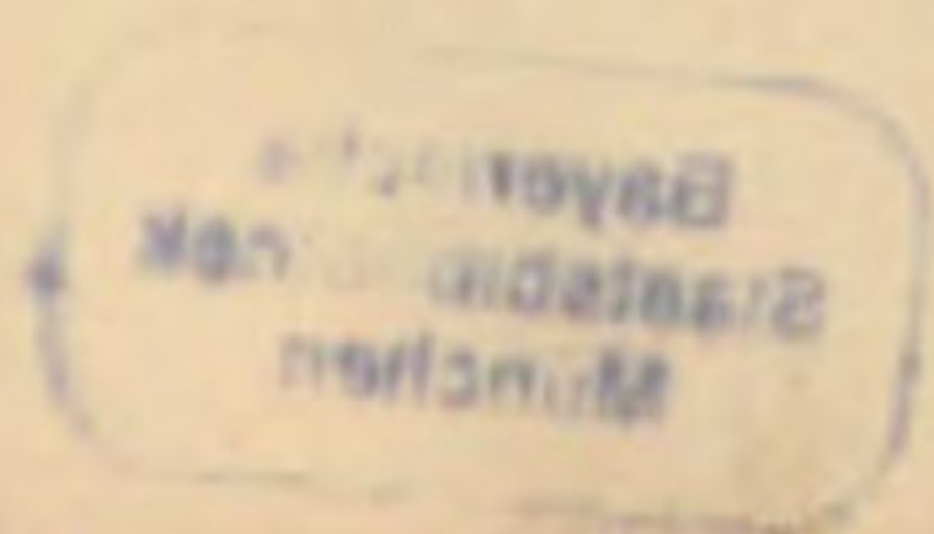
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knowledge, of every description, that the Republic of Letters has yet produced.

Some details of its progressive improvements cannot be viewed as here misplaced. They are, indeed, necessary to the full illustration of its structure and contents. But, as it always differed materially from all its predecessors of the same class, it may not be improper briefly to notice the more prominent of these, before giving any account of its own plan and progress, or attending to those crowning recommendations under which it now appears in its SEVENTH edition.

This class of publications belongs entirely to the modern world; for though the Ancients had the term, there were not amongst them any compilations resembling those to which the Moderns have applied it. Yet it is a class which, instead of only appearing, as theoretical history would lead us to imagine, at an advanced stage of intellectual culture, and amidst a great accumulation of books, seems to have originated and risen to much favour at a comparatively early period of modern literature. Thus we find Encyclopædias common in the latter half of the sixteenth, and first half of the seventeenth centuries, and every where enjoying a large share of estimation.* The works then so denominated, were intended to comprise, within a moderate compass, a series of systematic digests applicable either to some of the great departments of knowledge and art, or to the whole body of human learning. The "Natural History" of Pliny has sometimes been styled an Encyclopædia; and he has himself said that it embraced all that the Greeks designated by the term. But this can only have reference to the compass and variety of its matter, not to arrangement or method; in which it has nothing in common with those collective digests which, during the period mentioned, appropriated that name. If there were any anterior compilations of a similar nature, we must look for them, not among the remains of Grecian or Roman literature, but among those of the learned Arabians of the middle ages. One such work, at

* For a list of early Encyclopædias, see the *Bibliotheca Realis Philosophica* of Lipenius, T. I. p. 436-7.



least, exists in the collection of Arabic manuscripts preserved in the library of the Escorial at Madrid. It is described in Casiri's account of them, as a work, "ubi scientiarum, artiumque liberalium, synopsis occurrit, unà cum accurata et perspicua earum notitia, definitione, divisione, methodo ;"* and is said to have been compiled by Alfarabius, the great ornament of the School of Bagdad in the tenth century, who himself inscribed it with the title of Encyclopædia.

The most noted and valuable of the early Encyclopædias was that of John Henry Alstedius, a Professor of Philosophy and Divinity at Weissembourg in Transylvania; and who is said to have been the author of about sixty other works, though he died at the age of fifty, in 1638.† His Encyclopædia, by which alone his name is remembered, appeared in 1630, in two folio volumes. A smaller and less comprehensive work of the same kind, which he published ten years before, served as the groundwork of this more extensive undertaking; in which he professedly aimed at the formation of a complete Encyclopædia.‡ It consists of thirty-five books, of which the first four contain an explanation of the nature of the various subjects discussed in the rest. Then follow successively, six on Philology; ten on speculative, and four on practical Philosophy; three on Theology, Jurisprudence, and Medicine; three on the mechanical Arts; and five on History, Chronology, and Miscellaneous topics. This work was held in high estimation till the close of that century. Leibnitz mentions it, in the early part of the next, in respectful terms; accompanied with an earnest wish that some of the learned would either join in remodeling and improving it, or in composing an entirely new work of the same kind.§ The observations of this illustrious philosopher show that he had reflected much on the objects of such an under-

* Casiri, *Biblioth. Arabico-Hispana Escorial*. I. p. 189.

† Niceron, *Mémoires des Hommes Illustres*, T. XLI. p. 300.

‡ The idea then entertained of the nature of such a work, will be seen from his definition:—"Encyclopædia est systema omnium systematum, quibus res, homine dignæ, methodo certâ explicantur." Alsted. *Encyclop.* T. I. p. 49.

§ Leibnitii *Opera*, T. V. p. 405.

taking ; and that he considered an Encyclopædia as a species of publication calculated to be eminently useful to mankind.

After what has been said of these works, it is scarcely necessary to observe, that, though the term Encyclopædia is now familiarized to us as an appellation for *alphabetical* digests of general knowledge, the first works so designated were by no means constructed with any reference to the alphabet. It was long before the idea occurred that the lexicographic plan might be used as the basis of a universal repertory of human learning ; and still longer, before the alphabet was employed to introduce general treatises similar to those of the early Encyclopædias. Nearly a century elapsed from the publication of the popular work of Alstedius, before any considerable attempt was made to present the world with an encyclopedical dictionary ; and for a long period thereafter, no dictionary of that description—none, in fact, till the appearance of the Encyclopædia Britannica—exemplified the method of inserting complete or systematic views of the Sciences.

Dictionaries limited to the explanation of technical terms, and particular sciences, had been long common throughout Europe ; but the first professed attempt to bring the whole body of science and art into the lexicographic form, was the *Lexicon Technicum* of Dr Harris. It was completed and published at London in the year 1710 ;* and is generally viewed as the first great advance to the objects of the more modern Encyclopædia. But, though professing to be universal, it was in fact limited almost entirely to mathematical and physical science ; with respect to which, however, it has been generally allowed to have come fully up to the acquisitions of its day.

The “ Cyclopædia ” of Mr Chambers, published in the year 1728, presents the next marked advance in the composition of encyclopedical dictionaries ; and falls, indeed, to be considered as constituting an era in the history of their formation. Till its appearance there had been no attempt at once to

* In two folio volumes—the first in 1706, the other in 1710. It passed through five editions in the course of the next thirty years.

explain the sciences in the order of the alphabet, and to conjoin their component parts dissevered by that mode of arrangement. “No one,” says this author, “seems to have perceived that a dictionary is in some measure capable of the advantages of a *continued discourse*; and, therefore, we see nothing like *a whole* in what has, in this sort, been done.” It was not, however, by comprehensive views of the established divisions of knowledge, introduced in the alphabetical order of their names, that he proposed to remedy that evil of fractured “wholes,” of which he complains. He thought to accomplish this by references from general to particular heads, and from the latter to the former—in short, from the parts of all connected subjects or topics, reciprocally; conformably to an illustrative scheme with which he furnished his readers. That something was thus done to indicate and conjoin the subordinate heads of a science, fortuitously scattered by the alphabet, needs not be questioned; but the inherent defects of the plan were incapable of being surmounted by any system of references, however complete. The sciences cannot be taught or understood without being viewed continuously, in their natural state of unity and coherency; and the great and primary objects of an Encyclopædia cannot possibly be attained, where that method of surveying them is not exemplified. In some other respects, Mr Chambers’s notions of what was required by the nature of his undertaking were confined and arbitrary; as in thinking that an Encyclopædia should only contain the conclusions, without any of the demonstrations of mathematical, or the experimental details of physical science. But, with all its defects, whether of plan or execution, his work must be allowed to be the production of a mind of no ordinary compass and vigour; as well as one of the most useful literary undertakings ever accomplished by a single hand. How much has it not done through its numerous editions,* and the other works of the same kind to which it gave rise throughout Europe, to stimulate the curiosity, to enlarge the knowledge, and to diversify the intellectual pleasures and pursuits of the mass of mankind!

The popularity of the “Cyclopædia” remained undisturbed by any rival

* The *Cyclopædia* consisted of two very large folio volumes; of which there were *five* editions published in the short period of eighteen years.

for a considerable period; but the success with which it was frequently republished, and the progress of knowledge in some departments in which it was from the first defective, by holding out a prospect of encouragement to newer undertakings, led at last to a succession of similar works, mostly modeled upon its plan. The title which Mr Chambers chose, in preference to the more classical one of *Encyclopædia*, was however laid aside, for that suggested by their alphabetical structure; nor was the correct name assumed conjunctively with the latter, in any British work of this class, till the appearance of the *Encyclopædia Britannica*.

The first of these works was Barrow's "New and Universal Dictionary of Arts and Sciences," consisting of a folio volume, published in 1751; to which a supplement was added in 1754. Its only recommendations, as compared with its predecessor, consisted in an enlarged number of articles on mathematical subjects, on the mechanical arts, and on naval affairs; to make room for which, church history and all scholastic topics were excluded. A garbled translation of D'Alembert's celebrated preliminary Discourse to the French *Encyclopédie* was prefixed, in two portions, to these two volumes, without the slightest notice of the original.

This was followed, in 1754, by a "New and complete Dictionary of Arts and Sciences," comprised in four large octavo volumes, written, according to the title-page, "by a Society of Gentlemen." It is distinguished by the general brevity of its articles; a quality, which enabled its compilers to widen its range in the departments of geography, commerce, and natural history. Prefixed to it, there is a scheme of the divisions of human knowledge, intended to serve as the basis of its articles and references; and which is announced as "more simple and natural, and likewise fuller and better distributed," than that of either Chambers or D'Alembert; but which may be fairly characterized as an exceedingly confused and illogical performance, exemplifying an arbitrary use of philosophical terms.

In 1766 was published, in three folio volumes, "The Complete Dictionary

of Arts and Sciences"—a work compiled under the joint direction of the Rev. Henry Croker, Dr Thomas Williams, and Mr Samuel Clerk; the theological, philosophical, and critical branches being edited by the first; those of anatomy, medicine, and chemistry, by the second; and the mathematical by the last. This division of labour does not appear to have contributed much to the excellence of the respective departments; for the character of the whole, with a few exceptions, is that of sordid compilation. In point of method, it has still less claim to praise; for its authors either did not perceive, or disregarded the use of that chain of references, by which Mr Chambers endeavoured to remedy the defects arising from the division of subjects, naturally connected, under a multiplicity of separate heads. Part of D'Alembert's Discourse was here also appropriated without any mention of the quarter from whence it was derived.

On the Continent, as well as in England, the "Cyclopædia" of Mr Chambers gave a new impulse to the desire for such publications. Within little more than twenty years from its first appearance, it had been translated into the Italian language; and had, in France, become the foundation of the *Encyclopédie*—the most extensive and celebrated undertaking of the kind that had yet appeared in the world. This great work, originally intended to consist of ten, was ultimately enlarged to seventeen folio volumes; of which the first was published in 1751, the last in 1765.* It is well known to those conversant with its history, that it was founded upon an unpublished French translation of the work of Mr Chambers. That translation was undertaken in 1743, and completed in 1745, by an Englishman of the name of Mills, assisted by a native of Dantzic, named Sellius.† About the time of its completion, or soon after, the *Encyclopédie* was devised; and this translation was put into the hands of its intended conductors, as the groundwork of the undertaking. It is not, perhaps, so generally known, that the Abbé de Gua was its pro-

* Besides seventeen volumes of Text, it has eleven of Plates and Descriptions; of which the first was published in 1762, the last in 1772.

† *Mémoire pour P. J. F. Luneau De Boisjermain, Souscripteur de l'Encyclopédie.* 4to. Paris, 1771.

jector; and that it was only in consequence of a dispute between him and the booksellers concerned, that the editorship was committed to D'Alembert and Diderot.* While both concur in bestowing the highest encomiums upon the encyclopedical method—or plan of references—which Chambers had exemplified, they represent his execution as that of a servile compiler, particularly from French writers; observing, that the design of publishing the translation of his work was abandoned, because it was discovered that the public would thereby get little of which it was not already possessed in another form. They, at the same time, make the curious acknowledgment, that without the aids derived from that translation, it would have been next to impossible to procure the co-operation necessary to the composition of the *Encyclopédie*. “Il n’y a presque aucun de nos Collègues, qu’on eût déterminé à travailler, si on lui eût proposé de composer à neuf toute sa partie; tous auroient été effrayés, et l’*Encyclopédie* ne se feroit point faite.”†

The plan, however, of this memorable publication was confessedly modeled upon that of Mr Chambers, which its editors represented as having obtained the general suffrages of the learned. Seeking no distinction, therefore, from novelty of method, they rested its claims to public favour upon the great extension of its several departments; upon the various attainments and literary eminence of its contributors; and, above all, on the philosophical spirit which animated their labours. It would be altogether foreign to the present purpose, to enter into any details concerning its philosophical or literary merits; or the irreligious and revolutionary designs with which its conductors were charged. But with respect to its completeness and consistency as a general repertory of knowledge, it seems proper to observe, that the popular branches of biography and history were excluded from its plan; and that, though it unquestionably contains many articles of great originality, depth, and ability, there is yet every where a large alloy of useless matter, dressed out in a vague, diffuse, and declamatory style.

* *Nouv. Mém. de l'Académie Royale des Sciences de Berlin*, pour l'an. 1770, p. 52.—*Biographie Universelle*, Tom. XVIII. Art. Gua de Malves.

† *Encyclopédie*, Art. Encyclop. Tom. V. p. 645.

To its tendency to promote similar undertakings in the higher walks of literature, may probably be ascribed Dr Goldsmith's proposal to publish "A Universal Dictionary of Arts and Sciences," with the promised assistance of the most distinguished British writers of that day; who, as Bishop Percy informs us, "were to contribute articles, each on the subject in which he excelled."* The plan was frustrated by his untimely death; and it is matter of regret that his "Prospectus," described by the same writer as "giving a luminous view of his design," has not hitherto reached the public.

The Encyclopædia Britannica made its first appearance in the world a few years after the completion of its great French progenitor, then at the height of its fame. The first edition, which was completed in the year 1771, though, as already observed, far from imposing or attractive either in respect of extent or execution, was yet distinguished by a much more philosophical plan than had been exemplified by any of its predecessors, either abroad or at home. Instead of attempting to elucidate the sciences by a number of separate articles corresponding to their technical titles or sections, introduced in the order prescribed by the alphabet—and with no other continuity of explanation than could be obtained through references from one head to another—it treated each science completely, in a systematic form, under its proper denomination; the technical terms and subordinate heads being also explained alphabetically, when any thing more than a reference to the general treatise was required. This excellent method was prosecuted upon a wider scale, and with more maturity of execution, in the subsequent editions; and though not always followed out with *perfect* order and consistency—for that could hardly be supposed possible in a work composed by a multitude of hands—it was nevertheless practised to an extent exemplifying a great and beneficial improvement in the structure of Encyclopædias. Provision was thus made for the intermixture of general treatises, upon all subjects requiring continuous discussion, with any number of particulars to which the expansive powers of the alphabet can reach. The objects aimed at in the

* Life of Goldsmith, prefixed to Bishop Percy's edition of his work, Vol. I. p. 112.

early Encyclopædias were, in this way, reconciled to the lexicographic plan, whilst its adaptation to particular topics was in no respect impaired. It has, indeed, been alleged that this method has a tendency to withdraw the attention from the subordinate to the greater articles; and that the nobler provinces on the map of knowledge may thus appear in high culture and order, whilst the inferior and obscurer districts and localities are found to bear the marks of desertion or neglect. But this is not by any means a *necessary* or unavoidable result; and the plan which is best adapted to a satisfactory delineation of the higher subjects of enquiry, and which promises most effectually to communicate the knowledge of them, must be viewed as, on the whole, that which has made the greatest advances to perfection, and as the most likely to be productive of beneficial effects.

The editor of the first edition of this Encyclopædia, was Mr William Smellie; then well known as a man of considerable intellectual resources, and particularly conversant with Natural History. It is said by his biographer "that the plan of the work was devised by him;"* and if this alludes to its method in respect to the sciences, he was more likely, certainly, to have suggested that great improvement than any other of his known coadjutors. That method, it may however be observed, was not entirely new; for it had been at least partially exemplified many years before, in Dr De Coetlogon's voluminous, but long forgotten "Illustrations of the Arts and Sciences," published in the year 1745. In that work, each art and science was fully discussed in a separate treatise, introduced alphabetically according to the name of its subject; thus exemplifying the distinguishing feature of the method in question. But whether it was actually suggested by that obscure publication does not appear.

The work, though bearing the title of *Encyclopædia*, was at first little more than a Dictionary of Arts and Sciences upon a greatly improved plan; but its second edition, completed in ten volumes, about twelve years after

* Kerr's *Life of Smellie*, Vol. I. p. 136.

the first, was enriched with the addition of two great and popular branches not treated in the same form in any preceding work of the kind—namely, Biography and History. In the French *Encyclopédie*, though occasional notices of memorable persons occur in the articles relative to the history of philosophy and science, there was no series of separate lives; and no place whatever was assigned to civil history. The Supplement to that great work professed to include history in its plan; but its historical details were limited, for the most part, to what could be introduced under the names of kings and rulers; and thus presented no substantive or connected views of nations and states. To include history, in any form, was considered by some critics of name, particularly M. De La Harpe, as an abuse of the purposes of an Encyclopædia. “L’histoire n’est point,” says he, “une acquisition de l’esprit; ce n’est pas dans une Encyclopédie qu’on doit la chercher.”* This reason for such an exclusion is manifestly arbitrary, and would equally strike at many subjects of importance, to the introduction of which this writer does not object. It derives no countenance either from the practice of the earlier encyclopædists, or the opinions of the most enlightened of those who have commented upon their labours. Thus we find a general summary of the history of the world in the Encyclopædia of Alstedius; and Leibnitz, in remarking upon the defects of that work, mentions the historical department as one of those requiring to be greatly extended.† There cannot be a doubt that the success of the Encyclopædia Britannica was materially promoted by the above-mentioned enlargement of its basis; and that any work of the kind—to many serving the purposes of a library—which should now exclude these subjects, would greatly circumscribe the sphere of its usefulness.

Till the publication of its third edition, which was completed in eighteen volumes, in the year 1797, its method and the comprehensiveness of its plan, constituted its chief recommendations. In none of its departments had it as yet attracted any marked approbation. But in this edition it rose greatly above its former level; and that in fields of speculation and research

* La Harpe, *Cours de Littérature*, Tom. XV. p. 74.

† Leibnitii *Opera*, Tom. V. p. 184.

which lie far out of the ordinary paths of enquiry. In proof of this, it is only necessary to mention its admirable treatise on General or Philosophical Grammar ;* its copious survey of Metaphysics, by the late Reverend Dr Gleig ; its profound articles on Mythology, Mysteries, and Philology, by the late Dr Doig ; and its elaborate view of the Philosophy of Induction, by the late Professor Robison. The powers thus displayed in speculative philosophy, and ancient erudition, were, however, more than equaled by the other contributions of the last-mentioned writer, in the wide field of Physical Science. Though his accession did not take place till the edition had advanced to its thirteenth volume, the number and value of these contributions were such as strongly to attract the attention of the scientific world ; and the very high place which they then took, they still, in a great measure, maintain in its estimation. Shortly before, the work had been committed, owing to the death of the Editor, Mr Macfarquhar, to the direction of Dr Gleig ; and to this occurrence Professor Robison's accession, and its important consequences, would seem to be owing.

This edition was accordingly soon followed by two supplementary volumes, in which Professor Robison resumed the contributions wanting to complete that series which, as just stated, he had commenced, when the principal work was far advanced. Taken altogether, "they exhibited," according to a most competent judge—the late Dr Thomas Young—"a more complete view of the modern improvements of Physical Science than had ever before been in the possession of the British public."† These volumes contained little else of durable value ; but such remarkable contributions, joined with the others already mentioned, gave the work generally a new and more dignified aspect ; and did much to bespeak the future co-operation of the highest class of literary men.

A fourth edition, augmented to twenty volumes, was completed in 1810,

* Said to have been written by the Rev. James Bruce ; but the *originality* of the authorship has been much questioned.

† See Dr Young's biographical account of Professor Robison, in the present edition, Vol. XIX. p. 303.

under the able superintendence of the late Dr James Miller.* Most of the new treatises which he introduced, belonged, conformably to his own predilections and attainments, to Chemistry and Natural History—sciences then undergoing such rapid changes, that but little of any stable value could, through them, be added to the work. The case, however, was different with Professor Wallace's Mathematical contributions; which were not only of a kind to elevate its scientific character, but to impart to it great and permanent utility.† The general value of the edition would have been considerably enhanced, could its Editor have availed himself of those articles which Professor Robison contributed to the preceding supplemental volumes; but this was prevented by a temporary separation of the property from that in the principal work; and the incorporation of the whole—or rather of all that it has been judged proper to republish—with the general text, has only been effected in the present edition.‡

With the completion of the fourth edition the progress of improvement was for some time suspended. The next two were little more than reprints of the former; and, therefore, contributed nothing to vary or advance the character of the work. But its reputation, which might have otherwise suffered, was not merely sustained, but vastly augmented by a Supplement, extending to six volumes, which far more than compensated for the absence of any improvements in these two editions.

That distinguished publication was projected by the late Mr Constable, soon after the principal work and its appendages had been purchased by his enterprising house; and nothing which the extensive connexions, intelligence, and great liberality of that house—then in the zenith of its prosperity—could

* See the notice of his Life in the present edition.

† The following were the most valuable: Algebra, Conic Sections, Fluxions, Geometry, Mensuration, Porisms, Series, Trigonometry.

‡ The following are the articles of the series here reprinted: Arch, Carpentry, Centre, Dynamics, Perspective, Philosophy, Physics, Pumps, Resistance of Fluids, River, Roof, Seamanship, Signals, Steam-Engine, Strength of Materials, Telescope, Trumpet, Waterworks.

contribute to the perfection and success of a favourite undertaking, was either withheld or grudgingly bestowed. That success was fully commensurate to the expectations that had been formed. The first half volume was ushered into the world under the sanction of the illustrious name of Dugald Stewart, as the author of the first of those Preliminary Dissertations on the History of the Sciences, which, in a more complete state, so greatly ornament and recommend the present edition ; and the work rose rapidly to an unexampled pitch of public favour, which it enjoyed without the slightest diminution till its close. Nor is it matter of wonder that, containing, as it did, a succession of treatises upon many of the most important and interesting branches of knowledge—some of them altogether overlooked, others but sparingly treated in similar works—written by men second to none in talents and reputation, it should have continued to sustain itself on that elevated ground which it early reached. Its fame was not confined to Britain, but extended to the Continent ; and two of the most distinguished philosophers of France—M. Arago and M. Biot—were enrolled, and took an active place amongst its scientific contributors. Its publication, which had commenced in December 1815, was completed in April 1824.

Within a few years thereafter, the whole of these copyrights passed, owing to the misfortunes of the great publishing house just mentioned, into the hands of the present proprietors ; and this fortunate devolution of the property was soon manifested, by the announcement of preparations for the edition now completed ;—in every respect, the most perfect and conspicuous that has yet signalized the progress of the work. It is but simple justice, however, here to acknowledge, that a similar edition had been projected, and all but commenced, at the period of the overthrow of the former owners. In the Prospectus of their plan, the new proprietors stated, that “ the work would be widened in its compass, amplified and improved in its contents, and raised, in all respects, to a level with the modes of thinking and spirit of the age ;” and they may unhesitatingly lay claim to the merit of having amply fulfilled this comprehensive engagement. Nay, the multiplicity of new treatises, in some cases extending through all the branches of the most

widely ramified sciences ; the large and various engraftments in every department ; and the careful renovations throughout, make this edition, in a much greater degree, a new work with an old and respected name, than an improved republication of what had, under that name, been already given to the world. The Outline to be given of its contents, will, it is hoped, fully support the claims put forth in its behalf.

For the very responsible task of directing and superintending its formation, the Editor chosen had at least the recommendation of considerable experience, a thorough knowledge of the work itself, and extensive literary connexions—derived mostly from his previous editorship of the Supplement. The peculiar labours of an Editor, in such an undertaking, do not realize themselves in any separate substantive form. He is the sole director and fashioner of the fabric, and therefore accountable for its solidity and completeness ; but he may not himself have furnished any of the materials employed for its erection. His duties lie in judging of those materials, in selecting the workmen, and directing their operations. Stated more in detail, the present Editor believed them to consist in determining what parts of the text were to be retained, what expunged, and what altered—in ascertaining what defects and omissions were to be supplied, and the manner of doing so—in judging what subjects or sciences had received an imperfect or unphilosophical examination, and required to be placed on a level with the improved knowledge and taste of the times—in distinguishing those where the existing treatment might suffice, if amended, from such as called for, or merited an entirely new elucidation—in selecting the writers whose aid was to be solicited, and indicating their respective tasks—in conducting the correspondence thence arising—and in the ultimate revision of the whole, in order to make sure of the projected improvements, and to discover whether any thing was either improperly omitted or superinduced. The conclusions to be formed in the exercise of some of these duties were necessarily complicated by considerations connected with the incorporation of the Supplement—one of the principal objects of the undertaking—which obviously required great and material interferences with the structure of the older work.

The Editor's previous knowledge of that work, though productive of some material facilities, could not possibly authorize him to dispense with a renewed and scrupulous revision of the text, throughout its whole extent. This was essential towards fixing, justly and correctly, what portions were to be struck out as antiquated or insufficient, and what to be retained, with or without alterations. The discharge of this duty imposed the necessity of attentively re-perusing the greater part (taking the Supplement into view) of above twenty thousand closely printed quarto pages. Every article that he on this scrutiny retained, was corrected and amended previous to its being committed to the press as a component part of the new edition. In these emendations, and in the revision of the press, the Editor had the assistance of the late Dr James Browne, who, with learning and talents fitted to do credit to the highest departments of the work, and from which, in fact, it derived much valuable aid, performed these comparatively obscure duties with an assiduity and care not always conjoined with such abilities. But his interest in a great publication with which his name was otherwise honourably associated, and his warm desire to co-operate with the Editor, animated and sustained him, till his labours were interrupted by a fatal illness, when the work had advanced near to its appointed close. The stroke of death which prematurely deprived the cause of useful knowledge of a devoted and vigorous labourer, renders only the more sacred the duty of thus acknowledging what is due, in this particular, to his industry and skill. His other services, in the shape of literary contributions, speak for themselves, and will, in part, be afterwards noticed.

The Editor's attention was early directed to the means of completing those Preliminary Dissertations on the History of the Sciences, which had been published progressively with the volumes of the Supplement, and constituted their noblest and most attractive features. They were intended to form two distinct Dissertations, each divided into Parts. The first was to contain the History of Metaphysical, Ethical, and Political Philosophy; the second, that of Mathematical and Physical Science. The one was undertaken

by the late Mr Dugald Stewart, the other by his friend and former colleague, the late Professor Playfair ; and, incomplete as they were left by the death of these eminent men, they yet, to a considerable extent, supplied a great *desideratum* in British literature. The idea of a continuous delineation of the progress of the human mind in the discovery of truth, and in the correction of error, as an Introduction to a work in which the sciences are examined in detail, was, for the first time, exemplified in the Discourse by D'Alembert, prefixed to the French *Encyclopédie* ; and nothing of the kind of acknowledged merit had, in any shape, been given to the world in our own language prior to these Dissertations. That Discourse, though grand in its outline, was at once too rapid and too compressed in its notices of those “ great lights of the world, by whom the torch of science has been successively seized and transmitted,” to impart to the student, or to fix in his recollection, any satisfactory views of their opinions and achievements. The Scottish Discourses were written upon a scale which enabled their authors to remedy that defect ; and they accordingly present, in a style as noble as their subjects are dignified, some of the most instructive views of the advances and failures of human reason, and the progress of genuine science, combined with the justest estimates of those who have most affected that progress, for good or for evil, that any language affords. Mr Stewart had originally intended to trace the history of all the principal branches of philosophy connected with the knowledge of the Mind ; but his plan was completed only in as far as regarded the fundamental, or Metaphysical branch ; the others—with the exception of some valuable observations occasionally introduced in the former, concerning the Ethical and Political notions of the sixteenth, and early part of the seventeenth century—having been left untouched. Fortunately, however, the portion completed and published had received, before the death of the venerable author, a careful revision, and some additions of moment from his own hand ; and it is the Dissertation, as thus amended, that appears in the present work. The history of the Mathematical and Physical sciences, again, was, at Professor Playfair's death, brought down only to the period rendered memorable by the names of Newton and Leibnitz ; thus leaving the

discoveries of a century, eminently progressive in scientific knowledge, to be detailed by some other hand. It was the wish of the Editor to procure such continuations as should complete the plan which the original masters had sketched out; and, in as far as concerns Mathematical and Physical science, this may be considered as having been, in a great measure, accomplished by the animated and instructive sequel to Professor Playfair's treatise, written by the successor to his Academical Chair, the late Sir John Leslie. As to the other great division of the original plan, it is matter of deep regret that one of its most important sections has not been filled up. The Editor for some time hoped to procure from the late Sir James Mackintosh, a continuation which should include the history of Political as well as Ethical science; but his declining health and various occupations, obliged him ultimately, notwithstanding his strong attachment to the subject, to limit himself to the latter. The work has thus, at any rate, acquired an admirable analytical view of the Ethical theories of the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries, now placed as a sequel to the history of Metaphysical science completed by Mr Stewart. Its excellence, and the known wisdom, moderation, and erudition of its author, cannot but occasion regret to all, that the Political section did not receive the expected illustration from his all-competent pen. But, though these Dissertations do not present a complete history of the sciences, and though differences in respect of execution may, no doubt, be perceived among them, it cannot be denied that they furnish some precious illustrations of the progress of most of their principal branches. Viewed in connexion, as they now stand, they form an appropriate vestibule to this great intellectual structure; and a long period will in all probability elapse, before so much genuine philosophy, so much scientific genius, and such powers of writing, will be again combined in the same form, to recommend and dignify such an undertaking.

In his account of the present edition, the Editor is necessarily obliged to restrict himself to a brevity of statement which excludes the possibility of mentioning all the treatises of value that have been transferred to it, from

the preceding editions and their Supplements; but the importance of the last will necessarily require full details concerning the draughts made from its ample stores.

It may be stated generally, that every article of value in any preceding edition has been reprinted in this—in all cases with corrections, and frequently with considerable additions. Thus the article on Universal Grammar, published in the third, has here received annotations and additions calculated greatly to augment its utility to the younger student. These may be mentioned as among the services for which the work is indebted to the learning of the late Dr Browne.* All the articles contributed by Professor Robison—excepting those which the progress of science has so far outstripped as to require the substitution of others—have been here reprinted; occasionally with additions by writers every way competent to supply what was found wanting in the originals. One of the most useful, his treatise on Carpentry, appears with an introduction and notes by the late Dr Thomas Young;† whose equal eminence in Science and Letters, and numerous contributions in both departments to the late Supplement, entitle him to be regarded as one of the greatest benefactors of this Encyclopædia. This article was particularly valued by Dr Young, as forming, amongst with those on Roof, and Strength of Materials, a uniform system of the most important branch of practical mechanics. Among other extensively useful contributions by Professor Robison, were those on Seamanship, Steam, and the Steam-Engine. The first is reprinted with a supplemental section, containing some notices of recent improvements, written by a scientific seaman, Captain Basil Hall, of the Royal Navy. Of the other two, only those parts have been retained which show the state of the physics and

* The original treatise extends from p. 638 to p. 686 of the Tenth volume of the present edition; and Dr Browne's additions from that page to p. 702.

† It having been judged proper, on account of its importance, to reprint the article Carpentry (which, for a reason before mentioned, was not inserted in the body of the work) in the last Supplement, it was there that it came, at the Editor's request, to be annotated by the late Dr Young.

mechanics of Steam at the time, and the progress of the noblest of engines ; and these now form integral parts of the extensive and valuable treatises on their subjects, and on Steam Navigation, contributed by Mr Scott Russell.

Of the articles written for former editions several have been so extensively altered or remodeled by their own authors, as to make them, in reality, almost entirely new. Such is the case with some of those Mathematical articles by which Professor Wallace so much elevated the scientific character of the work, in its fourth edition ; particularly the treatises on Conic Sections, and Fluxions. In these, and other similar cases, the figures required for explanation or demonstration, instead of being accumulated in separate plates, have been transferred by woodcuts to the text ; a change obviously of great utility as well to the occasional enquirer as to the student. Others of the older treatises, now posthumous, have, besides the usual corrections, received suitable additions from living writers—for example, that on Theology, written for the third edition by the Reverend Dr Gleig ; which is here augmented with a very necessary view of the opinions of later Theologians, by the Reverend W. L. Alexander.

In particularizing the use that has been made of the late Supplement, it may first of all be stated generally, that its contents have mostly been reprinted ; all the principal treatises having been previously revised by their authors where that was possible, and altered, or corrected, wherever circumstances required such changes. Any more particular mention of a publication which has been for years before the world, may, at first view, appear unnecessary ; but as its incorporation with the general text formed one of the chief objects of the present edition, it thus becomes proper to show what the work has thereby in its unity acquired. The Editor can only, however, specify those more eminent contributions which are likely still to be considered as commendatory as they were at their first appearance.

In Mathematical and Physical Science, the Supplement contained various

treatises, the simplest mention of which and their writers will suffice to show their importance and distinction. Capillary Attraction, Attraction of Elliptical Spheroids, and Equations, were contributed by Mr Ivory; Physical Astronomy, (which now forms one of the divisions of the general treatise on Astronomy,) by Professor Playfair; Chromatics, Cohesion of Fluids, and Tides, by Dr Thomas Young; Pendulum, by M. Biot; and Polarization of Light, by M. Arago: while Sir John Leslie, in an extensive series—drawing its subjects alike from Chemical, Mathematical, and Physical Science, and bearing throughout the impress of his inventive genius and fervid imagination—gave the scientific portion of the work attractions which such compilations cannot reasonably be often expected to exhibit. That series consisted of the following articles: Angle, its trisection, Achromatic Glasses, Aerostation, Arithmetic, its philosophy, Barometer, Barometrical Measurements, Climate, Cold, Congelation, Dew, and Meteorology. The steps by which he was led to the discovery of his own beautiful process of artificial congelation* are strikingly detailed in one of these articles; and it may be mentioned for the information of those engaged in meteorological observations, that the last contains a full explanation of the theory and applications of all the different instruments required for their prosecution.

M. Biot's article on the Pendulum, and that of Dr Thomas Young on Tides, have been augmented with supplemental accounts of the latest enquiries on their respective subjects, by Mr Meikle; from whom the Editor has, both in this way, and by the contribution of several entire articles, received much useful aid.

The Supplement has also furnished some valuable contributions in different provinces of Natural History; particularly a comprehensive and animated view of the history of Botany and Botanical Systems, by the late Sir James Edward Smith, which is here included in the general treatise on Botany; and two articles on the Anatomy and Physiology of Vegetables, remarkable

* See the account of his Life in this work.

for luminous arrangement and interesting details, by the late Mr Daniel Ellis.

The highly useful departments of Civil Engineering, Arts, and Manufactures, have been widely extended by the numerous treatises belonging to these heads, written for the Supplement. Among them the following may be particularly mentioned: Agriculture, by the late Mr Cleghorn; Assaying, and Coining, by the late Mr Mushet; Baking, Brickmaking, Bleaching, Brewing, and Distillation, by Dr Thomas Thomson; Bridges, Roads, and Weights and Measures, by Dr Thomas Young; Breakwaters, and Docks, by Sir John Barrow; Cotton Manufacture, by Mr Bannatyne; Horticulture, by Dr Neil; Joinery, Stone-Cutting, and Stone-Masonry, by the late Mr Tredgold; and Gunpowder and Wine-making, by the late Dr Macculloch. These articles will be found rich in practical information not derived from ordinary sources, or to be met with in ordinary compilations. Additions have been here made to several. Thus, the latest details connected with the Cotton Manufacture, have been furnished by the writer of the article; and Horticulture, which appeared to its experienced author to require a more expanded treatment, has been by him remodeled and amended accordingly. In reprinting those, again, which had unfortunately become posthumous, and which required alterations, the Editor had recourse to other suitable aid. Dr Young's article on Bridges has accordingly a short addition by Professor Wallace; and Mr Meikle supplied the more recent details required in the article on Weights and Measures.

It may be safely stated, that the Supplement was the first encyclopedical work published in Britain, in which there was any marked attention bestowed upon Politics and Political Economy, considered as sciences; and as the important treatises introduced to supply that defect are here reprinted, the Editor will take leave to describe them (with some immaterial alterations) in the language used on their first appearance.

“ Political Philosophy has been hitherto but little attended to in the

formation of Encyclopædias. Yet it would seem to have peculiar claims to attention in these works; for the student is but too often left to such information only as can be procured in mere occasional, or party productions;—in publications where it is seldom attempted, either to pursue a scientific mode of discussion, or to reduce the scattered elements of knowledge into a systematic form. Hence the propriety of political treatises in works planned for the purpose of methodizing and diffusing knowledge; where, though prejudice and predilection cannot of course be entirely excluded, all the general topics of political science are more likely to be treated in a philosophical spirit and form, than in most of the other vehicles of political information.

“ The defects of the *Encyclopædia Britannica* in Political Science, made a strong call, as the Editor thought, to supply the deficiency; and he hopes the present work will be found far more complete in all the branches of that science, than any similar publication that has yet appeared. The articles introduced may be considered as belonging to General Politics, Political Economy, and Political Arithmetic.

“ To the first head may be referred the articles Balance of Power, Government, Jurisprudence, Law of Nations, Liberty of the Press, and Prison Discipline; all, but the first, written by the late Mr Mill, whose contributions display a reach and depth of thinking, and a power of analytical reasoning, that must command the respect even of those who may sometimes be disposed to dispute his principles, or to dissent from his conclusions. Most of the great problems respecting the ends and objects of government and legislation, and the means of preserving political, civil, and national rights, are discussed by him, in the articles mentioned, in a form severely methodical, and in a spirit which seeks neither aid nor ornament from the artifices of rhetoric.

“ It is observed by M. Cuvier, in his brilliant *Sketch of the progress of Physical Science in France since the Revolution*, that the evils which resulted

from the ruinous system of *Assignats*, were in some degree compensated by the improvements in the arts to which that system gave rise.* Compensations of a far higher order have, in this country, attended the evils occasioned by measures affecting the soundness of its Currency; for they have served to exercise the science of Political Economy in discussions which have elicited new principles, afforded new explanations, and raised the truths which it unfolds to a degree of importance in the eyes of statesmen and legislators, of which the world generally has experienced the benefits. The space here allotted to this science, has been accordingly measured out with a due regard to the interest which it has excited, and to its intrinsic utility; and here, also, the reader will receive the information presented to him, from contributions of eminent ability;—some of them furnished by those who, next to the immortal founder of the science, are universally considered as its greatest benefactors.

“ The following are the most important: Colony, and Economists, by Mr Mill; Emigration, by Mr Buchanan; Funding System, by the late Mr Ricardo; Political Economy, Cottage System, Exchange, Interest, Money, and Taxation, by Mr M'Culloch; and Population, by the late Reverend T. R. Malthus.

“ It thus appears that Political Economy, as a distinct science, forms the subject of a general treatise; while others are devoted to subordinate but important topics, requiring a more enlarged elucidation. Taken altogether, they furnish not only a systematic exposition of the great principles of the science, but detailed views also, of the new doctrines concerning Rent, Value, Wages, and Profits, with full statements of the opinions to which they are opposed. In copious references, and in Illustrative Tables, formed with the greatest atten-

* “ Elle a laissé à l'art du Papetier des perfectionnemens durables, et surtout l'emploi de l'acide muriatique oxigéné pour le blanchiment de la pâte. C'est même à elle que l'on doit en grande partie le nouvel emploi des caractères stéréotypes, qui augmenteront les bienfaits de l'imprimerie, en faisant pénétrer les conceptions du génie jusque dans les plus pauvres chaumières.”—CUVIER, *Rapport Historique sur le Progrès des Sciences Naturelles*.

tion to accuracy, they have recommendations of especial value in an Encyclopædia. The prejudices opposed to the important and fruitful doctrine more particularly connected with the name of Mr Malthus, must be considered as greatly enhancing the value of the clear and comprehensive summary of the facts and reasonings by which it is established, here given, in their latest form, by himself. Generally speaking, the preceding treatises may be represented as exhibiting a complete view of all the great questions that have been agitated in recent times, relative to the creation, distribution, and consumption of wealth; the theory of money; the means of raising supplies for the public expenditure; the effects of subjecting the food of the people to artificial regulation; and the causes which regulate the increase and decrease of their numbers.

“In the branch of Political Arithmetic there are two articles by Mr Milne, who is also the author of the treatise on Annuities. The first, on Bills of Mortality, explains the history, formation, and uses of these important Registers; the other, on the Law of Mortality, develops the principle which governs the waste of human life, and furnishes the means of calculating the probable length of its duration at any given age.”*

In preparing the foregoing treatises for the present edition, they have undergone such modifications, and received such additions, as were necessary to adjust them to the later views and information applicable to their subjects. This has been the case more particularly in the series contributed by Mr M'Culloch—a series, the utility of which, in a work like this, can hardly be overrated, and whose compass and details have been considerably augmented and improved by the alterations here introduced. The article on Prison Discipline, by the late Mr Mill, has been accommodated, by another hand, to the information supplied by subsequent enquiries; and the closely connected subjects treated under Bills, and the Law of Mortality,

* Preface to the Supplement.

have been consolidated by the original author into one treatise, bearing the title of the latter. The article on Annuities, by the same writer, has also been reconstructed by himself, with useful additions.

It has been remarked by a late enlightened judge of literary undertakings, that “the articles on the exact sciences, contained in Encyclopædias, are the best; and that those on literary, moral, and political subjects, are in most danger of being less ably executed.”* The reason why it should be so is not very obvious, unless it be that excellence is of more difficult attainment in the latter than in the former. But be this as it may, and admitting the risk of inferiority to be in general as stated, it must be allowed that the political articles of the Supplement established an honourable brotherhood with those on the exact sciences; and the like equality may be confidently ascribed to its contributions on literary subjects. No one can deny that its treatises on the Affinities of Languages, and on Egyptian Hieroglyphics, by Dr Thomas Young, displayed literary powers and acquisitions of the highest order; his discoveries as to the latter being among the greatest achievements of modern scholarship. In the present work they have been incorporated in a general view of Hieroglyphics, evincing no small share of learning and ingenuity, by Dr Browne.† Among the other literary productions alluded to, were that on the Fine Arts, by Mr Hazlitt; and the characteristic series on Chivalry, the Drama, and Romance, by Sir Walter Scott. The second of this series has been generally considered as ranking with the best compositions in serious prose, which its illustrious author has given to the world. The last was limited to Romances of Chivalry and the cognate kinds; but it has in this edition been augmented by Mr Moir, so as to present a critical account of the fictions of the great novelist himself, and others of anterior and subsequent date. The treatise on Beauty by (Mr, now) Lord Jeffrey, also written for the Supplement, belongs to a class equally within the scope of the above

* Sir James Mackintosh.—*Edinburgh Review*, V. 27, p. 196.

† The third, fourth, and fifth sections of this treatise, consist of what was written by Dr Young. In the Supplement, his Hieroglyphical enquiries made part of an article which he contributed upon Egypt.

remark; and may be appealed to, with those just mentioned, as showing that merit of the highest order was there exemplified in literary and speculative as well as in scientific compositions. That treatise, it is proper to add, includes much of the theory of Taste, and is alike remarkable for its philosophical grasp, its happy analytical expositions, and its brilliant diction.

Owing to the defects of the Encyclopædia in the three extensive provinces of Geography, Topography, and Statistics, a large portion of the Supplement was necessarily devoted to them; and every article of value within either has been here neutralized;—sometimes with large additions, and always with such alterations as existing circumstances required. In composing the geographical articles, the discoveries in the obscure districts of Africa, in the interior regions of the American continent, in the Indian and Pacific oceans, and in the icy seas that surround the Poles, formed objects of particular attention. The most valuable were contributed by Sir John Barrow, who also furnished an account of China; the more to be prized, as it contained the results of his own observations upon the institutions and language of that extraordinary empire. To the same very able writer the Statistical department was indebted for more than one instructive article; but that on the Navy deserves to be particularly mentioned, as comprising information respecting this favourite instrument of national glory and power, which could not have been procured, in so satisfactory a form, from any other quarter.

The Historical articles of the Supplement were necessarily limited to recent changes and events; and the Biographical, mostly, but not entirely, to the lives of such eminent men as had died within the preceding thirty or forty years. The contributions in this branch will, however, be generally recognized as of durable value. Amongst them were several accounts of memorable men, written by those who had personal knowledge, or other authentic information concerning them; and a number of scientific and literary lives, replete with accurate information, and particularly attentive to bibliographical and other minute notices, were contributed by Dr Young; who, greatly distin-

guished both as a scholar and man of science, deemed no details unworthy of his attention by which knowledge could be rendered more exact and complete.

The Editor has now to add some account of the wholly new matter with which the liberality of the Proprietors, honourably desirous to outstrip their promises to the public, enabled him to enrich the present edition. And here, as before, the only course by which, amidst the multiplicity of articles that invite attention, he can avoid a revolting minuteness of statement, is to make such selections as may enable the reader to form a tolerable estimate of the value of the information contained in this vast collection, and the state of perfection at which it has now arrived.

It could not be supposed that in a work proposing to examine every methodized product of human thought, the subject of all others the most important to man should be overlooked; even though one of its editions had not, as before mentioned, been partly conducted by a clergymen. But though by no means wanting in treatises upon that subject, some topics not previously discussed presented themselves for enquiry; and a few others, as calling for a more thorough investigation than they had before received. The observation applies both to theology and to ecclesiastical history. Under the word Scripture, an article of great utility to students, on the critical knowledge of the sacred books—a subject but lately introduced into the theological *curricula* of our academical seminaries—was contributed by the Rev. W. L. Alexander. The Life of our Saviour, and the History of the Jews, form two new articles, written with great ability, and a thorough knowledge—particularly conspicuous in the first—of the later heresies of the German schools. For these the Editor is indebted to the Reverend Dr Welsh. Finally, the Religious Missions of the present age; the great Secession from the Scottish Presbyterian Church towards the middle of last century; and the history of that small community of Protestants who, from remote times and under cruel persecution, have upheld their altars and prosecuted their worship in the secluded valleys of the Cottian

Alps, have each been noticed at considerable length, under their respective heads—Religious Missions, Seceders, and Valdenses—by Mr Douglas, the Rev. James Taylor, and the Rev. Dr Gilly.

In Philosophy, as contradistinguished from Science, there is comparatively little to be described as new. The valuable articles upon Ancient Philosophy, about to be mentioned, constitute the principal accessions to this department. It is one, indeed, in which the work has made fewer advances than in any other, above its earlier essays. The treatises on Universal Grammar, on Metaphysics, and on the Philosophy of Induction, published in the third edition, still maintain their places in this. To the first, in as far as it goes, it would not be easy to produce any thing superior; and the second, though of a structure too scholastic to please the taste of the present day, yet displays much reading, carefully elaborated, and no small share of that acumen which its subject requires. One of its chief defects is, that it does nothing like justice to that Metaphysical School native to Scotland, and distinguished by the names of Reid and Stewart, which is now rising more and more into reputation and authority on the Continent and in the New World, whilst it unfortunately engages but little attention in the country and island to which it does so much honour. The defect alluded to cannot, however, be wholly ascribed to the particular opinions of the author; for, at the time when his treatise was written, the works of the most successful expounder of the doctrines of that School, had only lately and to a small extent been published.* The Editor accordingly at first resolved to have

“ This long explored, but still exhaustless mine
Of contemplation ”

examined anew, under the more appropriate title of the Philosophy of the Mind; but views of expediency, and the consideration that the defects of that treatise were at least partially supplied in the first Preliminary Dissertation, led ultimately to the abandonment of that design. The third of the

* See Note to Art. Metaphysics, Vol. XIV. p. 599.

articles mentioned above, was intended by Professor Robison as a formal explanation of the Inductive Philosophy of Lord Bacon. It has been complained of, and not unjustly, as abstract and inexplicit; but here the enquirer may turn to the Preliminary Dissertations, with the certainty of finding expositions of the Baconian precepts, and delineations of the genius of the immortal author, worthy of the subject and his name. In this fundamental portion of modern philosophy, these Dissertations gave the *Encyclopædia Britannica* a marked superiority over all its compeers. But with respect to the philosophy of the ancient world, it has always been not merely defective but nearly silent. It was, therefore, the Editor's wish, to make it more consistent with itself, and more complete for study and reference, by introducing an account of the speculative wisdom of antiquity. He thought, at the same time, that for such a work, the most suitable explanations would be such as could be given, not in a general, but in separate treatises on the lives and doctrines of those sages whose names are first thought of by every student, and whose opinions have been most fully transmitted to modern times; and one of the soundest scholars and thinkers of that great English Seminary which has been represented as having the mastery in Grecian learning, obligingly entered into the design, and furnished three treatises on the Lives and Philosophy of Aristotle, Plato, and Socrates. Dr Hampden has, by these excellent contributions, which agreeably combine personal history with profound views of the comprehensive, lofty, and subtle systems he was called upon to explain—written in a clear and manly style—endowed the work with additional recommendations to the notice of the learned, and done much to silence all cavils as to the essential superficiality, where such subjects are concerned, of publications of this description.

Another new treatise remains to be mentioned, as appertaining to the philosophical rather than to any other department; namely, that on Rhetoric, by Professor Spalding. It consists of a comprehensive and discriminating analysis of the principles of reasoning and eloquence, both written and oral; and some useful observations on the works to which students are commonly referred.

High as the reputation of this work for a considerable period has been in mathematical and physical science, it cannot but be raised still more in name, as in utility, by the numerous and important contributions to both, in this edition. These seemed to be called for, partly by an advisable extension of subjects, and partly to substitute treatises of a higher order for the less perfect performances of an earlier day. The popular science of Astronomy has accordingly been examined under that general head, and in two separate articles on Comets and the Figure of the Earth, by Mr Galloway. The doctrine of Probability, the history and principles of the Trigonometrical Survey, Projectiles, and Rotation, form other four contributions by the same very able and highly instructed writer. Hygrometry is discussed in a valuable article by Mr Meikle. Eight treatises, embracing the greater part of that congeries of sciences classed under the general name of Natural Philosophy, are recommended by the authorship of one who has himself, by his fine and brilliant experiments and discoveries, added a new province, of the most interesting description, to the realms of Science. The Editor alludes to Sir David Brewster, whose contributions include Hydrodynamics, Electricity, Magnetism, Mechanics, Micrometer, Microscope, Optics, and Voltaic Electricity.

Passing from this primary department, the Editor has to mention, that Chemistry, and the widely ramified branches of Natural History, have, throughout their whole extent, been treated anew. The general view of the former, as a distinct science, was contributed by Dr Thomas Thomson; to whose profound knowledge the Supplement, as before mentioned, was indebted for several valuable articles on the chemical arts, here reprinted. The treatise on Geology, by Mr Phillips, presents one of the most comprehensive summaries yet given to the world of that favourite science; and of the kindred branch of Mineralogy, it is enough to say that it has been explained according to the Natural History system, by Professor Jameson. Closely connected with these, are two instructive articles on Heat, and on Physical Geography, by Dr Traill. Botany is fully illustrated in an extensive article by Mr Walker Arnott; and Zoology, by far the largest division

of Natural History, has been passed in review, under a new arrangement comprising twelve great classes, each forming a distinct treatise. The principles of their classification, the general doctrines of Zoology, and its various systems, are discussed with consummate knowledge, and in a most agreeable style, in a general survey of the Animal Kingdom, by Mr James Wilson. It forms an introduction to the other treatises; most of the more important and interesting of which have been contributed by the same accomplished writer; while the others, in order to secure systematic unity, have been executed under his immediate direction. The Editor need not load his already crowded pages with an enumeration of these zoological treatises. It is enough for the reader to be informed that they constitute, when viewed in their scientific order, a complete and consistent system of Zoology, founded on the best information, and having reference to all the latest authorities.

Besides the treatises alluded to, there are some detached articles, full of attraction to those who delight in rural occupations and pastimes; particularly that on Angling by Mr Wilson, and those on the Horse and the Hound by Mr Apperley;—a writer whose power of blending amusement with information, it would not, in his particular line, be easy to surpass. With these may be mentioned, though not so nearly connected with Zoology, the articles on Horsemanship and Hunting;—all alike bearing the stamp, not to be mistaken, of the same curious and experienced hand.

In Medical Science, and the subjects connected with it, the contributions have been limited to such of the great branches as necessarily called for reconsideration; and to a few subordinate topics to which recent enquiries had imparted fresh interest. Anatomy, Surgery, and the distinct branch of Veterinary Medicine, have been treated under these several heads by Dr Craigie, Mr Miller, and Mr Dick. Dr Traill has furnished a general sketch of the comparatively new science of Medical Jurisprudence; and Physiology is very fully explained in a treatise possessing every recommendation that extensive knowledge and clearness of composition can confer, by Dr Roget. There are, besides, articles on Animal Magnetism, by Dr

John Thomson; on Mental Diseases, by Dr Poole; on Medicine generally, the Practice of Physic, and Pathology, by Dr William Thomson; and on Poisons, by Dr Christison.

The number of new contributions in the ever-enlarging branches of Civil Engineering, Arts, and Manufactures, is so great as to admit of only a partial enumeration, limited to the most interesting and important. In this view, the following may be specified:—Architecture, and Building, by Mr Hosking;* Clock and Watch-work, and Inland Navigation, by Mr Meikle; Dyeing, by Dr Thomas Thomson; Gas-Lighting, by Dr Anderson; Light-Houses, by Mr Alan Stevenson; Music, by Mr Graham; Painting, by Mr Haydon; Porcelain Manufacture, by Mr Davenport; Printing, Copper-plate Printing, and Type-Founding, by Mr Hansard; Railways, and Tunnels, by Mr Lecount; Ship-Building, Timber, and Tonnage, by Mr Creuze; Steam Navigation, treated alongst with Steam generally, and the Steam-Engine, by Mr Scott Russell; Ventilation, by Dr D. B. Reid; Weaving, Wool, and its Manufactures, by Mr Chapman.

The numerous treatises in General Politics, and Political Economy, reprinted from the Supplement, with additions, left but little call for any further extension of their subjects. A few treatises of great value have, however, been added. Such in particular are those on Legislation, including the modern doctrine of Codification; and on the Laws and Government of England;—the last forming one of the divisions of the general account of its History and Statistics. For these treatises, which are written in a calm and philosophical strain, entitling them to high consideration as political disquisitions, the Editor is indebted to Mr Empson. In Political Economy again, the recent changes in the English Poor-Laws required a new view of the whole system—well supplied by Mr Coode; and Mr M'Cul-

* These two treatises, joined with those in different parts of the work, on Brick-Making, Carpentry, Centre, Gas-Lights, Joinery, Masonry, Stone-Cutting, Roof, and Strength of Materials, form a body of information respecting the operations most essential to the comfort, protection, and ornament of life, that it would not be easy to surpass, either in respect of scientific or practical instruction.

loch has made a most useful supplement to his former series, by a treatise, in two divisions, upon Paper Money ;—the last of the two being occupied with an exposition of the principles of Banking.

Though the additional matter appertaining to Geography and Statistics consists, in a great measure, of enlargements of articles reprinted from the Supplement, there is a vast number wholly new, particularly in European and Asiatic Geography. Indeed the geography of Asia may be said to be almost entirely so, both in the greater and shorter articles ; all of which have been composed with due attention to the latest information, and to the growing importance of these regions to British industry and commerce. The European articles have been chiefly written by Mr Jacob ; the Asiatic, by Mr Buchanan. The counties, cities, and towns of England were also, for the most part, furnished by the former ; but in many cases, the accounts of these were corrected by resident individuals of competent information. The Irish articles of this description have been mostly contributed by the Rev. Edward Groves ; while those respecting Scotland were compiled or improved by various hands. It may be stated in general, that great care has been exercised in obtaining accurate information as to places ; the Editor knowing well that errors would occur in spite of the best exertions ; and that he who perceives any thing faulty regarding the place of his nativity or residence, is apt enough to imagine that there must be great defects in greater things. It has been observed by the eminent critic already referred to, “ that the Geographical articles of Encyclopædias are often copied from old books, and transcribed from edition to edition with a disgraceful negligence of new information.”* That some of these compilations have been “ disgracefully” faulty in this particular, is undeniable ; but though imperfections may be discovered in a field of such endless details, the Editor is confident that in no impartial survey of this work would they be ascribed to the servile practice so justly decried, or to any culpable neglect of the best sources of information.

* Sir James Mackintosh—*Edinburgh Review*, ubi sup.

History and Biography made large calls for the augmentation of their recitals. Some sections of the former have been entirely re-written; of which two may be particularized as owing their renovated form to the lights derived from recent researches. These are the histories of Rome and of Scotland. The investigations of Niebuhr and other subsequent writers, strongly suggested a new survey of that memorable portion of history; and the successful enquiries of Mr Tytler and others in the far less splendid, but sufficiently contentious province of Scottish history, and its particular claims to notice in a work like this, also enjoined its general reconsideration. The one task was performed by the Rev. W. M. Hetherington; the other by the writer just named, who has deservedly earned much credit for the light which he has thrown upon the darker portions of our national history.

In Biography, again, numerous new lives have been introduced; but many omissions, as some might consider them, could be easily pointed out. It is in such cases forgotten, that in a field so vast and crowded there can only be selections; that the choice must be in great measure discretionary; and that, in all probability, no two individuals could be found, who would in every instance agree as to whether a particular life should be inserted or omitted. But, speaking generally, it cannot be denied that there has been a great and not injudicious choice of new biographical articles, by which the utility of the work for consultation has been considerably augmented. To particularize these lives would be an unprofitable task. Several of them, such as that of Shakspeare by Mr De Quincey, are excellent specimens of critical biography, upon that limited scale which the nature of the work prescribed. It may be added, that a large proportion were compiled by Dr Browne; that the greater part of those belonging to the classical ages and mythology, were written by Mr Ramage; and that almost all the Scottish lives have been re-composed, with distinguished accuracy and learning, by Dr Irving.

The new articles, not properly belonging to any of the immediately preceding divisions, form a considerable Miscellaneous list, in which are included

several of no ordinary merit. The general treatise on Poetry, by Mr Moir, shows critical powers, knowledge, and taste, worthy of its subject; and Dr Browne's literary resources appear to advantage in that on Hieroglyphics, as well as in those under the words Army, Libraries, and Newspapers. Alongst with these may be mentioned an elaborate account of the history and constitution of the principal Universities of Europe, by Mr Ferguson; and three learned treatises on the Canon, Civil, and Feudal law, by Dr Irving. Other articles might be specified; but the above may suffice to show that much valuable information, of a miscellaneous nature, has been introduced.

This Outline may be fitly closed by the mention of a distinguishing part of the present edition, and which, indeed, is altogether new in British Encyclopædias—namely, an extensive General Index. Other portions of the work may, and properly, be more extolled; yet this undeniably lays claim to a very high degree of utility—a utility to be more or less felt by every class of enquirers—as furnishing a key, not merely to this or that particular science or subject, but to every thing included within the vast circuit of human knowledge. It is indeed obvious, that if an Encyclopædia has in any tolerable degree realized its objects, an index to it must necessarily be the most useful compilation of its kind that can by possibility exist; and it certainly must, at first view, appear somewhat remarkable, that no similar appendage to any such work should have been previously exemplified in this country. It was thought, perhaps, that an Encyclopædia is itself a species of Index; and that the contents of each article are sufficiently disclosed by its title. The Editor had been long of opinion that an Index pointing to the information upon particular topics, scattered under a multitude of different heads, or lurking in corners where it might not be expected or readily found, was absolutely necessary to perfect an Encyclopædia as a book of reference; particularly an Encyclopædia in which general subjects are discussed in systematic or complete treatises—including facts, opinions, and authorities, which their titles alone could not possibly indicate. It was therefore, from the first, a favourite part of his plan to superadd this recommendation to the present edition; but the design, however carefully considered, would have lost much of its value, had it not been

carried into execution with a degree of intelligence and zeal, seldom exemplified in a performance wholly unattended with literary distinction. For this the Editor is indebted to Mr Cox; and he will be thanked by all who avail themselves of the ready access which he has thus laid open to the treasures of this multifarious Repertory. Some explanatory details as to the structure of the Index, will be found in the notice which he has prefixed to it.

The Editor cannot quit the foregoing Outline without a few deprecatory words as to its contents. In the first place, he hopes that no contributor whose labours and name have not been mentioned, will ascribe the omission to any want of respect for either; or to any cause but the necessity of bringing the selections within some reasonable compass, and the apprehension of creating disgust by a cumbrous multiplicity of details; the less wanted as to *names*, that the Signature to each new article will, on turning to the annexed Table, immediately disclose its authorship. In the second place, and still more earnestly, he begs to express the hope, that no one will ascribe the language of commendation which he has occasionally used, to any presumptuous idea of its being of any consequence, either to those to whom it applies, or to the public. He conceived it to be his duty to give some account of the formation and contents of the work; and, in doing so, he has only exercised the privilege allowed to the humblest historian, of representing the things and persons that come under his review in the light in which they appear to his own understanding.

Allusion has just been made to the Signatures designed to connect authors with their contributions. This expedient, which is as evidently useful in an extensive Encyclopædia, in order to give each article the authority due to its author's name, as it would seem to be injurious in a Critical Journal, by repressing that freedom, and neutralizing that community of sentiment which ought to obtain in such a publication, was first employed in the French *Encyclopédie*; but not always with perfect honesty; for latterly, it was not unusual to screen living writers, by affixing to articles of a certain description

—*les diatribes les plus hardies*—the signatures of those who were dead.* The expedient in question was adopted by the Editor, and steadily practised, with the marked approbation of the public, throughout the late Supplement; and it has been repeated in the present edition with increased confidence in its utility. To render the literary history of the work as complete as possible, the Editor has also annexed Signatures to articles of eminence written for previous editions, wherever he was enabled to do so upon authoritative grounds. He is sorry to add, that in many copies, Signatures both to new articles and to some reprinted from the Supplement, have been accidentally omitted; and, what is worse, that they have, in a few instances, been so applied as to give to one author what was written by another. The mistakes that might arise from these defects and inaccuracies, will be partly obviated by the statements in this Preface; but, still further to remedy them, a corrective Memorandum has been subjoined to the Table of Signatures; and the Editor ventures to hope that such blunders in the handicraft details of a work so extensive, will be acknowledged as almost unavoidable, even by those whom they personally affect.

A few omissions in the text, for which the Editor alone is to blame, were discovered too late to be remedied. Partial errors may also be perceived. It is hardly possible, in fact, for human circumspection to recollect and provide for every thing that ought to be found in so multifarious a publication; and blemishes which, looking to the general merits of the execution, cannot fairly be ascribed either to remissness or indifference, the candid and considerate will readily excuse.

The Editor conceives it to be unnecessary to make any detailed observations as to the Woodcuts, Engravings, and Maps, with which the work is so copiously illustrated. They speak sufficiently for themselves, both in respect of number and execution; yet it would be unjust not to acknowledge, that though contributors are sometimes apt to make large

* See *Biographie Universelle*, Tom. X., Art. *Damilaville*.

demands for these expensive appendages, no complaint of a grudging supply ever came to his knowledge; and, as he left the publishers almost wholly to their own discretion in this particular, the merit of the arrangements in this costly department belongs entirely to them.

There is no literary undertaking which so severely tries both the purse and the judgment of the projectors, as an extensive Encyclopædia; and surely they who take the risks attending a work so eminently useful—whose importance to the general culture of the national understanding it would not be easy to overrate—which gives to the truths of science a wider and more beneficial diffusion than they could otherwise attain—and which places a large amount of knowledge, upon every subject of human enquiry, within easy reach and ready reference—are well entitled to adequate returns. But years must elapse before that harvest can be fully reaped; and the Editor hopes that he may be allowed, on taking leave of the work, to express his earnest wishes for the prosperity of those who entrusted to his direction so great a venture, and liberally supplied the means of success. Joined with other personal feelings incident to such an occasion, is the mournful recollection of the too great number of illustrious and able coadjutors, who, since the period of his *first* connexion with this work, have paid the great debt of nature—among them, some of the most revered of his instructors and esteemed of his friends. But he gladly quits this topic, to express, in conclusion, his gratitude to those survivors, through whose countenance and talents his task has been brought to a satisfactory close.

EDINBURGH, *March* 1842.

MACVEY NAPIER.

SIGNATURES.

THE employment of Signatures to indicate the Authors of the Contributions to which they are annexed, is particularly mentioned in the foregoing Preface. The original intention with respect to their application was, to affix to each contribution a letter of the alphabet, taken progressively from the established series; and when one series was exhausted, to use two or more corresponding letters, according as the contributions to which they were to be attached should come earlier or later into the text of the work. This plan was followed till the alphabet was four times repeated, and Signatures consisted of one, two, three, and four corresponding letters. It would have been better, perhaps, to have continued the same mode of indication throughout; but as the Signatures appeared likely to become somewhat cumbrous, and as it was of little moment what mark was used, provided the choice was fixed, the practice crept in of employing two different letters, and, in one or two instances, the initials of the author's name. Hence the change that will be perceived in the annexed Table.

The application of these Signatures was at first intended to be limited to New Contributions, and to those reprinted, with or without additions, from the late Supplement; but in order to make the literary history of the work more complete, it was afterwards thought advisable to indicate in the same way, the writers of articles of distinction or importance reprinted from any preceding edition, in as far as the authorship could be authoritatively ascertained. The Signatures thus refer to three sets of Contributions:—those written for the present edition; those reprinted from the Supplement; and those reprinted from earlier editions. The number of these so marked is but small.

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OMISSIONS AND CORRECTIONS.

Signatures have been frequently omitted, both in the case of Articles reprinted from the Supplement, and those written for the present work; and this has happened sometimes with respect to the whole of an author's contributions, sometimes with respect only to a part. The annexed details will, it is hoped, in a great measure remedy these omissions; but wherever there is any doubt as to the authorship of a particular article, the reader will do well to turn to the Preface, to ascertain whether the article in question is there mentioned; for if it is, the name of its author will be found stated in connexion with it.

It is proper to mention further, that the omissions are more numerous in some copies of the work than in others; for when the impression was enlarged to meet the increased demand, Signatures were annexed to those Articles which had been discovered to want them.

I.—Articles without Signatures.*

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Britain. Egypt.	JAMES BROWNE, LL.D.
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Babylon. Borneo. Jains, (Sect of)	HUGH MURRAY, Esq.
Benares. Filangieri, (Gaetan.) France, (Statistics of.) } Mysore. Necker. Nepaul. Rhodes. Siam. Siberia. } Sinde. Singapore. Statistics. United States. Van } Diemen's Land. }	DAVID BUCHANAN, Esq.
Demerara. Guiana. Holland. Hungary. London. } Mutis, (J. C.) }	WILLIAM JACOB, Esq.

* The Articles in this List, having been mostly written by the authors mentioned in the preceding Table, are entered in the order in which the names of the writers occur in that Table—the names only, without titles, being on that account, and to avoid repetition, here affixed.

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Brissot. De Broses. M. Buat. Ceylon. Cornwallis, Denina. Duclos. Dumarsais. Dundas, (Henry.) Dunning. Dussaulx. Dutens. Eberhard, (J. A.) Garve, (C.) Genovesi, (A.)	JOHN COLQUHOUN, Esq.
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Aurora-Borealis. Mineralogy.	PROFESSOR JAMESON.
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Moore. (Dr John.)	J. C. DUNLOP, Esq.
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Vegetable Physiology.	DANIEL ELLIS, Esq.
Baldinger. Kaleidoscope.	DR ROGET.
Aqua-Tofana.	DR DUNCAN, JUN.
Cinnamon. Copper. Klinometer. Lamp.	W. A. CADELL, Esq.
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Burger, (G. A.)	WILLIAM HAZLITT, Esq.
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Carpentry, (Additions to.) Coulomb. Heberden, (W.) Herculaneum. Langrage. Language, (affinities of.) Lemonnier. Malus. Maskelyne, (Dr.) Mechain. Messier. Orme, (Robert.)	DR THOMAS YOUNG.
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II.—*Articles with Erroneous Signatures.*

As mentioned in the Preface, Signatures have, in a few instances, been incorrectly applied. The annexed corrections will, it is believed, rectify all the errors of the kind that have been committed.

The Article Aqua-Tofana has the sig. X. instead of Z.	The Article Mysore, B. instead of F.
Batnears, or Batties, F. instead of N.N.	Practice of Physic, L. instead of L.L.L.L.
Benares, S. instead of F.	Porcelain, X.X. instead of B.C.
Bogalcund, F. instead of N.N.	Pottery, X.X.X.X. instead of B.C.
Botany, U.U. instead of X.X. and D.P.	Prisons, X. instead of U.U.U.U.
Copyright, D.D. instead of M.M.	Vegetable Physiology, Q. instead of W.

GENERAL INDEX.

THIS Index is intended not merely to facilitate reference to the Articles and Treatises contained in the ENCYCLOPÆDIA, but to serve the far more important purpose of bringing into view, and directing the inquirer to the varied information scattered through them, but not indicated by their heads or titles—a requisite which the plan of general treatises and systems adopted in this ENCYCLOPÆDIA renders particularly desirable. In this way much information upon various topics not so indicated will be found in these Treatises; and it is obviously of great importance, that those making inquiries regarding such topics, should be enabled to turn at once to the places in which that information may be found. For instance, a reader desirous of learning as much as possible about Scotland and Scottish affairs, will not only find, under the head SCOTLAND, a general view of the history and statistics of the country, but be referred by the Index to many other parts of the work (such as BRITAIN, FISHERIES, ROADS, &c.), where a great variety of additional particulars are furnished. Again, as the sciences are discussed in the ENCYCLOPÆDIA under their general names, the principal details embraced by them are given under such heads as ANATOMY, CHEMISTRY, ENTOMOLOGY, METAPHYSICS, METEOROLOGY, &c. By consulting the Index, therefore, the student will be saved the trouble of looking through a long treatise in search of information upon particular points; and those, again, who are in quest of information which they might not think was to be found under such heads, may, in the same way, be enabled unexpectedly to extend their knowledge. Those indexes which have already been given at the end of the Preliminary Dissertations, and of the articles on the natural history of animals and some other sciences, are here embodied under one Alphabet.

It is necessary to observe, that, with the proper character of an Index, that of a Table of Contents is not here combined. For example, under the head SCOTLAND in the Index, no reference whatever is made to the contents of the article so headed in the ENCYCLOPÆDIA; it being presumed that a person in quest of knowledge about Scotland will commence by turning over the pages of that article, and so ascertaining its contents. But the particulars there given enter the Index under the various heads of AGRICULTURE, BANKS, COAL, FISHERIES, IRON, LIBRARIES, RAILROADS, and so forth.

The name of every subject to which an article is devoted in the ENCYCLOPÆDIA, is printed in capital letters in the Index; and the first reference is to the volume and page where the article occurs. The immediately subsequent references are, as generally as possible, arranged according to the fulness of the information to which they point; and hence the probability is increased, that, by turning to the places first indicated, the reader will find the information he desires. On subjects undistinguished by capital letters in the Index, no *separate articles* occur in the ENCYCLOPÆDIA.

When an article in the Index contains many references to countries and towns, the names of the latter are alphabetically arranged, in the manner exemplified under the heads AGRICULTURE, ARMY, CANALS, &c. The adoption of this plan will save time and trouble to persons consulting the Index. In many chemical articles, such as Oxides, Sulphurets, &c., a similar arrangement is followed. References to *maps* are always given last.

Many French names have *Le*, *La*, *De*, *Des*, or *Du*, prefixed to them; as Le Clerc, La Harpe, La Place, De Moivre, Du Halde, Des Cartes. Sometimes both words are thrown into one; as Laplace, Lagrange. It is

a question whether, in such cases, the initial letter of the prefix, or that of the distinctive word, ought to determine the position of the name in the Index. Except where both words are usually joined, no general rule has been strictly adhered to in the body of the work; for the most part, however, the prefix has been disregarded—so that Du Halde, for example, appears under the letter H, and Le Clerc under the letter C. In compiling the Index, the following principle has been adopted:—Where a name is commonly printed as two words (Le Clerc, for instance), the latter determines its place in the Index; while in such cases as Laplace, Descartes, &c., the former is followed. It may be well, however, for the reader to look at both places when any doubt is entertained.

Many individuals are better known by their titles than by their surnames; thus, Henry Home is currently referred to as Lord Kames, and Sir Thomas Wentworth as the Earl of Strafford. To avoid confusion, it is customary in Biographical Dictionaries to adopt the surname as the word regulating the position of the article; and from this sound practice there is, in the present Index, almost no deviation that the compiler's knowledge enabled him to avoid. As, however, some readers must be presumed to be ignorant of the surnames of men whose titles are their ordinary designations, titles also are generally inserted, with merely a reference to the surnames. To make inquiry secure, both ought to be consulted.

The only additional remark which seems called for is, that in proper names in which the diphthong æ or œ occurs, the diphthong is retained, instead of being supplanted by the letter e, as is now sometimes the case. The reader will therefore turn to Ætna, not Etna; and to Æolus, not Eolus.

R. C.

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